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REVIEWS

Earth Features and Their Meaning. An Introduction to Geology.

By WILLIAM H. HOBBS. New York: Macmillan, 1912.

Pp. xl, 506 illustrations, maps, appendices, index.

While the subtitle would class the book with texts in geology the first title is much more appropriate, and suggests the author's unique point of view. The work should be classed with Geikie's *Earth Sculpture* and Marr's *Scientific Study of Scenery*, but it is much more ambitious. The author has here expanded the substance of his own course of lectures on the subject in the University of Michigan.

As a textbook in geology it endeavors to cover only dynamic and structural geology. In the thirty-one chapters these two fields are well covered. The figure of the earth and its materials are described, and then discussed as to origin, nature, and interpretation. Rock structures, after careful description, are analyzed to get at their history, and to discover their effect on topography. The "character lines" of forms due to weathering, streams, ground water, waves, glaciers, sun and wind without much rain, and diastrophism are described, genetically correlated, and illustrated by line drawings, block diagrams, and sketches from photographs. Rarely are photographs reproduced without adapting by cutting out the non-essential and presenting in lines and symbols the essential. Twenty-four plates—photographs—against about 500 figures are used.

With a conscious effort to illustrate the theoretic work from American features the author has, possibly unconsciously, given a rather large place to glaciers, 140 pages out of about 500. No other overweighing seems apparent.

The introduction of much experimental data, and the forcing of the reader to go out and see things mentioned constitute a very valuable feature. Extended lists of reading references at the end of each chapter put the reader in touch with much of the best literature on the various topics. Appendices for the determination of minerals and rocks, and for the preparation, interpretation, and care of topographic and geologic maps are followed by a list of suggested itineraries for geologic study both in America and in Europe.

The student of physiography will find much more than the geologist in the work. The boundary line between the two sciences is pretty well concealed. Physiography is made to contribute to geologic interpretation and a wealth of data are furnished, ready to be applied to the elucidation of stratigraphic problems.

G. D. H.